Markwet language

Markweta (Markweeta) is a Kalenjin language of Kenya. The regional terms *Endo* and *Sambirir* (or the clan name *Talai*) have been used for northern and southern Markweta, but they are not distinct dialects. The unmarked word order is Verb–subject–object.

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Markweta	
Native to	Kenya
Ethnicity	Marakwet
Native speakers	180,000 (2009 census)[1]
Language family	Nilo-Saharan? ▪ Eastern Sudanic ▪ Nilotic ▪ Southern Nilotic ▪ Kalenjin ▪ Nandi–Markweta ▪ **Markweta**
Dialects	Endo (Northern) Sambirir (Southern)
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	enb
Glottolog	mark1255 (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mark1255)[2]

Phonology

Vowels

Markweta has five basic vowels: /a, e, i, o, u/. All vowels have variants based on tongue root position and length, for a total of 20 distinct vowel phonemes.

The vowels /o:/ and /a:/ are both pronounced like /ɔ:/, and can only be distinguished by looking at affixes.[3]

Consonants

Markweta has 13 consonants:

	Bilabial	Alveolar	Palatal	Velar
Stop	p	t	c	k
Fricative		s		
Nasal	m	n	ɲ	ŋ
Approximant		l	j	w
Trill		r		

Morphology

Markweta has gender. Gender is realized as a prefix added primarily for person nouns and animal names, but sometimes inanimate objects.

The prefixes 'kaa-' and 'kii-' are used to indicate nominalization.

References

1. Markweta (https://www.ethnologue.com/18/language/enb/) at *Ethnologue* (18th ed., 2015)
2. Hammarström, Harald; Forkel, Robert; Haspelmath, Martin, eds. (2017). "Markweeta" (http://glottolog.org/resource/languoid/id/mark1255). *Glottolog 3.0*. Jena, Germany: Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History.
3. Zwarts, Joost. (2004). *The phonology of Endo : a southern Nilotic language of Kenya*. LINCOM EUROPA. ISBN 3895868205. OCLC 249588881 (https://www.worldcat.org/oclc/249588881).